The Houston Post Almanac

As Others See It.

VAN ALSTYNE LEADER: The Leader return thanks to the esteemed Houston Post for a New Year's gift in The Post Almanac for 1896. It has 612 pages, and gives more useful information to the square inch than any other book of the lind we have yet seen. Long may The Post live, and may 1898 be to it a happy and successful year.

ORANGE TRIBUNE: The Tribune has received a copy of The Houston Post Almanac for 1896, for which we return thanks to the manager of The Post. The Post Almanac is a complete compendium of information upon almost every subject in which the people of this day are interested, a veritable encyclopedia, and will be a valuable addition to any idersty.

LOCKHART PHONOGRAPH: We are sincerely grateful to The Houston Post for a copy of its Almanac for 1886, which is a complete encyclopedia of valuable information within itself, containing much valuable statistical information that not even the more recent encyclopedias contain, abounding principally with information regarding Texas and her wonderful resources.

GOLDTHWAITE MOUNTAIN EAGLE: The Eagle returns thanks to The Houston Post for a copy of its Almanac for 1896, which is one of the most complete works of the kind we have ever seen, containing a list of the executives of Texas for the past 202 years, bends of all the denorthments institutions and foliciary almost 1816, and a complete description of the State, besides other valuable satisfies too numerous to mention.

BRIDGEPORT HERALD: The Houston Post Almanac for 1896 is on our table. It is a book of 611 pages, filled with a mass of information which one would suppose almost impossible to crowd into a book of its size. It is now typographically and valuable in its context. It contains political statistics of the Nation and State as well as historical, legal and adentifie data of every description. It is a great book published by a great newspaper and should have a wide circulation.

TAYLOR TEXAN: The Houston Post Almanac for 1896 has been received. It is a book of over 400 pages, and is so full of us

For 1897 The Post Almanac has been thoroughly revised, and contains happenings and information up to the date of publication. NONE BETTER PUBLISHED.



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STAGE

Last week was given over theatrically at the opera house to the fun-makers and alleged fun-makers. The atandard was not high The minstrel performance during the earlier part of the week was very poor. "Evangeline" was good of the kind, but the kind is not especially elevating or to surround the first and the farce comedy closing the week's engagements was of an entremely light character. A series of dramatic performances were given by the Schwartz company at the Auditory that the schwartz company at the Auditory to measure the schwartz company at the schwartz company at the schwartz company ment and specialties. One almost sighs in valu for even an occasional glimpse at the old time romantic or society drama, It is farce comedy generally, the greater half of which is silly. But so a good laugh is raised the end and purpose of the action Tastes like this change with the erasons One year it is tragedy, then again comedy then the spectaceler and next season something else. The public is largely responsible for the character of the productions from time to time. Managers are quick to catch the public taste and cater Possibly the caterors may constude by the time the meanon of '5d-51 is over that there has been a satisfy of the present order of muchine made plays and fun-making attractions and provided some-thing for us next year of a more substanthing for us next year of a more substantial character. It is about time for a general revival of the higher class dramatic entertainments, but the remainder of the country must wait until New York demands something else than the counte and spectacular or the randoville. We, of the interior, have to be content as a goneral proposition with the warmed over metropolitan dishes. The coming week offers at least one first-class attraction here, but still comedy, though of the higher class.—Stuart Hobson in 'Mrz Ponderbury's Past.' The other engagements for the week are 'The Fast Mail' and 'The Prodigal Father.'

Lincoln J. Carter's scenic melodrama, "The Fast Mail," will be the production given at the opera house tomorrow night Monday. As its name indicates, it deals largely with the railroad in its incidence, but it presents an abundance of effects admirable in their execution. The steamboat is said to be a wonder of ciever conception and mechanical work, and the railroad scene, with its trains going at a
rapid rate of speed, make the stage seem
like a piece of reality. The Ningara Falls
scene is beautiful and its unid to be more
elaborate than anything of the kind ever
before attempted in this city. There are
a multitude of minor effects that contribute to make the performance a revelation of realism. The whistles belts and
splashing are heard as the beat leaves the
wharf. The sounds that teil us of an approaching train herald the approach of the
freight and the fast mail train—the latter
running by with people gazing from the
window at the heroine who has just saved
ber lover's life by fastening a letter to the
mail pouch. The rearing of Ningara Falls
is heard, and the mist that rises from it
is shown. The play is under the personal
direction of L. J. Carter, the author. The
cast is said to be a capable one. The play
is startling at times in its climaxes, and
these, when presented with all the effects
of the intricate stage settings, bring the
interest to a degree that is rarely attained
in the melodrams. A large number of people are employed in the production, which
is in many particulars plainly the result
of care and skill combined. ception and mechanical work, and the rail-

pera house on Tuesday, January 12, Mat-how Ponderbury is the character assumed by Mr. Robson, and Mrs. Ponderbury by ne Janauschek, Mrs. Ponderbury is



Stuart Robson.

indices him to dance a can-can with her. When Matthew discovers it is time to be setting home to avoid his wife a suspicious, he finds the door locked and himself a prisoner. His suffries attract the attention of recope in the street, who come to his research and among them is his wife. In his desperation he frame sommamboliam. It is here that the mirth scovaling qualities of the play reach their some, and no audionics that has witnessed it but had to view this same with shouls of laughter. In connection with this comedy Mr. Robson has introduced a one-act play as a sort of preface to this longer one, which is hardly alequate in time for an American entertainment. This introductory is a revision of one of Ruckatone's quaint efforts, and is a great mirth provoker. It is entitled "Mr. Gilman's Whiding."

It takes a shrewd manager to place before the amusement public the proper kind of attractions, but Manager John W. Dunne is one of the kind who generally caters to the public taste with the lutest up-to-date ideas. In connecting himself with Eddle Foy, the favorite comedian, Mr. Dunne has of the intricate stage settings, bring the interest to a degree that is rarely attained in the melodrama. A large number of people are employed in the production, which is in many particulars plainly the result of care and skill combined.

In "Mrs. Ponderbury's Past." the play which Stuart Robson will produce in conjunction with Madame Janauschek, the well known tragedicane, at Sweeney & Coombe opera house on Tuesday, January 12, Matthew Ponderbury is the character execution.

opera house Friday next, January 15, mati-nee and night. The Boston Herald of Oc-

theater has regard audience at the Columbia theater has right with any amount of fun and frolic. There are few places of the same order that are fuller of chances for a good company, and this production of 'The Producal Father' is in the hands of agable people. There is a tramp, a policionan, a linds and a number of other people, all of whom are indigenous to the soil of farrecometry, and they keep at the fundaming from the beginning to the end of them.

Brew, James Lewis, Viola Allen, Henry Miller, Herbert Keiery, Georgia Cayvan, Virginia liarned, Nai Goodwin, Joseph Jefferson, W. H. Crane, Mrs. Yesmans, Marnifates, E. H. Sothern, W. J. Le Moyne, W. J. Ferguson, Agues Hooth J. H. Stoddard, Mrs. Walcott or Mand Adams, A year that peaces without bringing forth a new actor is notable and disappointing. A player, however gills, there nothing behind but memory. Harris fostered epera and mis-drama in England. Abbey established opera and introduced fine art in America, and both have enduring monuments. But who save those that witnessed their performances can remember the droll wit of Lewis, the fue ferror of Salvini, and the miracles of Herrman?

The American tour of "The Sign of the Cross" will terminate prematurely. Here we have an illustration of the uncertainties of the drams as a business. Out of this play Wilson Barrett is making a great fortune in England. The clergy of London acclaimed it as a proper religious meloacciaimed it as a proper religious melo-drama, and people not accusiomed to go to theaters at all leave for mouths crowded to see it in that city. Several companies are traveling through Great Britain with it it was sent to America with a good cast and a duplicate of the original scenery, but it failed to give support in New York from others than habitual frequenters of theaters, and not enough of them liked it to yield a mouth of profitable continuance. Our elersymon were invited to witness the performance, but few did so, and only one sermon was praiched on the subject.

"The drams," says Novelist Zangwill, "did not begin as an artistic product. The artist, who has an engagement with his sweetheart, and who can find no way to the festivals of Bacchus, and it seems her it himself of his numerically and the festivals of Bacchus, and it seems likely to end in the music hall choruses her alone. Then it is that Matthew comes of the modern temples of Bacchus. As you know a website may be theilled to subline drama began in the religious choruses at likely to end in the music hall choruses of the modern temples of Bacchus. As you know, a woman may be thrilled to sublime tears by Chopin or Schubert, and yet pay her music historess only a shifling an hour, while the railery god, who kicks his wife, is often the most rapturous apriander of the quinctle ethics of melodrama. Our English code considered actors as rogues and vagabonds and the odor of brimstone still clings to the stage, despite the Increase of paragraphic flattery. We possess no great national drama. Elljan can never appear on our stage except in evening dress. Greek dramatists trained their own actors. English actors trained their own dramatists." actors. English actors trained their own dramatists."

It has been settled that Lillian Russell is to take her personal charms and metodious of Gustave Kerker and Richard F. Carrell. voice to Australia. She will play in the antipodes under the supervision of Williams & Musgrove, giving her entire reperiams & Musgrove, giving her entire repertoire of operas. Miss Russell will start as soon as possible after her Casino engage ment is ended, and the prospects are that she will not be seen in this portion of the world for a long time. George B. McClellan, who represented Nat Goodwin during the latter's tour of Australia, is credited with having engineered the deal. He returned from Europe recently, and with his came Mr. Musgrove, Several consultations were held with the diva, and the long former was finally decided upon.

Lee & Block, the managers of the company, have in preparation some exquisitely handsome severy. The company tolends William Steiger, Henry Leoni, Gerald Gerone, Belle Bluckin, Rose Leighton, Neille Parker and several others, with a strong chorus of fifty voices.

"All last week the intensely cold weather brought in its train many tales of suffering of want and of death," said Charles A. Bigelow, the bright comedian of "The Girt from Paris," "but the noblest tale of death

The venerable Mrs. John Drew is going into melodrama. She has been engaged for "The Sporting Duchess." Mrs. Drew will probably make the title character considerably more like the English original



MISS SADI TIMMINS.

On the afternoon of the 2d, at the Kunkel concert, the St. Louis public were given an opertunity to hear Miss Sadie Timmins for the first time. The name of Miss Timmins is too well known in Houston to require explanation. Although with the exception of the time she spent at school, site has passed her life in Charles, Me, where she spent at school, site has passed her life in Charles, Me, where she spent eight years.

Miss Timmins has many school friends in St. Louis, and frequently visits there, where there is so much musical interest. Mr. Kunkel, having had occasion to bear Miss Timulus sing recently, induced her to pernit him to introduce her to the St. Louis public at one of his concerts. She gave two seprano solos, "Ah, I Would Linger," by Gounod, end "one Spring Mornine," by Nevin, "Miss Timulus has a voice of the highest and purest soprano, eter and well trained, and full of that trilling, rippling quality which is birdike. She studied in Houston when a child with Miss Buckingham, and afterward at the Metropolitatudy attracted the attention and admiration of all the teachers with whom she was abroad. Her parents, who are old Houstonians and by birth New Orleans pole, live at 10°S Texas arenne. Miss Timulus is a great favorite among the young class. In personality and manner the young lady is charming, for, berides her and many womanly accomplishments. She is petite and a pronounced blonde.

After the New York engagement the pany play in Philadelphia, Brooklyn, ington, Baltimore and Chicago. A Lee & Block, the managers of the co-

ling, of want and of death," said Charles A. Bigelow, the bright comedian of "The Girt from Paris." "but the noblest tale of death that combined devotion to one's profession comes from England, where I hear that a bailet girl in a specifacular piece threw such fervor and enthusiasm into her little role that, in a sense demicting the Arctic regions, she froze to death on a painted loobers, while the paper snow from the flies sorily fluttered down and covered her."

eald to have been the original of the character is very old. Agues Rooth was unwilling to look any older than she could be been and it is the intention to produce The Carroll-Kerker Opera company headed by Camille D'Arville and Richard F
Carroll, opened its season at Wallack's
New York thester January 4 in the Turk-

Over 100 consecutive performances in New York is a marvelous record for any play at any time. Under the existing con dition of business it is more than note worthy that the Smyth-Ries Comedy company, in "My Friend from India," hav achieved this record. They went into New archieved this record. They went into New York in September, practically unheralded and unknown, and the sterling merit of both play and performers has been one of the exceptionally bright features of one of the worst seasons ever known in the the-atrical business. At the conclusion of their engagement at Hoyt's theater, January 2, "My Friend from India" commenced its road tour in Boston.

Adelaide Herrmann, in accordance with the wishes of the late Alexander Herr-mann, will keep his company together. Shortly after the death of her husband sho cabled Leon Herrmann, a nephew of the Wizard and himself a magician of great note, to cancel his European engageners and sail immediately for New York Mme. Herrmann will fill all the dates booked. from which it was drawn than Agnes Booth future.

"The Prodigal Father" will be seen at the opera house Friday next, January 15, matines and night. The Boston Herald of October 6 last said: "The Prodigal Father" and said the dates booked, ager of the class. Mrs. Drew has professional dignity, if any woman on the American ager of the opera organization bearing his last ease. The English woman who is

Leander Richardson says in the New York Mercury: There are several reasons why more American actors of ordinary worth are out of positions just at present than in several seasons past. In the first In the second, the business of the average stage attraction for the pest two or three years has been so bad that the managers have felt obliged to urtial their expenses, and accordingly have cut down satures. They are in the grap of the rullroads, and can not reduce their expenses in that direction, while competition among show printers has brought the prices of posters as low as they are likely to be.

Young actor.

The Potter-Bellew repertors a train a included "She Stoops to the rate and "The Men Wenter." They will appear in Soula Manown on the stage as Ross Maris her unided name, was born in Paris by nine years ago.

Slegified is pronounced in Rezkle's greatest triumph. The

THEATRICAL GOSSIP. The Bostonians will shortly produce a new opera by Herbert and Smith. Richard Harding Davis is dramatizing his novel "Soldiers of Portune."

They put a baritone in fall for not sing-Detroit's principal theaters now give only evening performances on Sunday. The admission fee was only 6 cents at a recent performance of "Elijah" in London.

Geraldine Ulmar, now in New York, may give up singing for the legislmate comedy. Marle Jansen is to support Harry Con-nor in Heyt's new play, "A Stranger in New York,"

"A King and a Few Dukes" to the title of a new comedy to be produced by Augustin Daly.

A sister of George Bernard Shaw will be in the east of the new Irish opera, "Shamus O'Brien." Louise Thorndyke Boucleault and Max Fitzman have been engaged for Henry Miller's company.

Manager William S. Brady will pay \$10 ried by the Rev. George C. itle suggested for a pastoral

try next season and present him to the to be married is in the nature of a American public as his successor.

McKee Rankin, Amelia Bingham len Burg will be seen in Edwi I Royle's "Captain Impudence." Salvini, Jr.'s, start as a star we in Boston, and the playgoers of the propose to erect a memorial to a young actor.

Siegfried is pronounced in Reszke's greatest triumph. The his mustache makes him look as over 25. Anent Melba's Brandles cays. She sang divinely and seed as much animation as a cow."

John Lawrence Toole has anse-determination not to act for a loc 8- B. Hancroft, another English as has made a fortune and rathed, pears in public only to real for its of various charittes.

Cina Nethersole, according to a she declined to discuss, will be a next spring in London to a certain next spring in London to a cell Marie Haiton, the well-known of a singer, has decided to go on the ville stage. She signed a contract of the stage of the While dancing during a perform in "Lady Slavey" at Kansas Cit, resoler slipped and fell, suffering a plaintes. Miss Dressler was remon-ted, where physicians pronound



LEON HERRMANN.

Leon Herrmann, a nephew of the late Alexander Herrmann, is on his of the great magician. Leon audited fourteen years with Carl Herrmann, of the great magician. Leon audited fourteen years with Carl Herrmann, it was the very earnest desire of Herrmann in the last few years to provide a means for the carrying handledge and the hame of the Herrmanns, which has been so prominent interest the brilliant progress of his young perhew's continental tours, him as his successor. After the death of Hirrmann, Mme. Herrmann Leon to come at once and take up the unfinished tour. The company LEON HERRMANN.